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From the Chancellor



Buddy Mitchell

By the time you receive this issue of *Third Thursday*, I hope the worst of a very cold winter is behind us and spring will soon be on the way. **We're beginning an exciting year for facility enhancement on our campus, as the Brehm and Food Science and Technology buildings are completed over the summer**

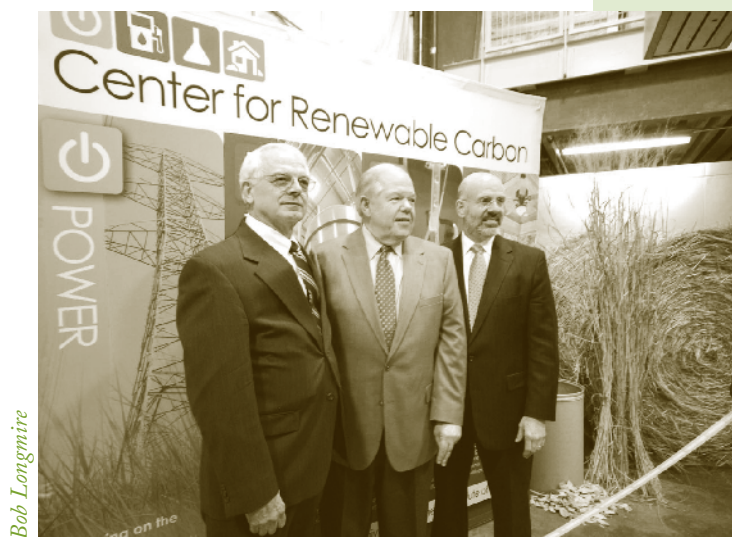
with an open house anticipated in early fall. Also, construction will begin this summer on the **large animal expansion of the Veterinary Medical Center.** This long-anticipated and urgently needed facility will provide great service to our farm animal and equine clients for decades to come.

We are also in a building phase regarding relationships that are important to the institute. In February, **I attended a reception along with other members of the UT administration in Washington, DC, for the new members of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation.** Both senators and almost all of our U.S. representatives were present, and it gave us a great opportunity to meet the four new delegation members and their staff. **Congressmen Scott DesJarlais and Stephen Fincher** are on the House Agriculture Committee and will be positioned to help us in the days ahead. As you know, there is tremendous concern about the size of the federal deficit, **so we must work diligently in Washington to educate our delegation on the unique importance of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture's funding for our Hatch, Smith-Lever and McIntire-Stennis programs.** These programs provide a truly exceptional return on investment and have proven to be of enormous benefit, not only to farmers and rural communities, but also, in fact, to all consumers. Haywood County cotton farmer **Allen King** and Blount County cattle producer **David Fugate** are our two delegates to the Council for Agriculture, Research, Extension and Teaching. They are wonderful advocates for our program and will join me in Washington for three days this month to forcefully advocate the need to preserve and enhance our funding.

Thank you again for your outstanding and dedicated service to the Institute of Agriculture. We are fortunate to have such worthwhile work to do, and I appreciate your commitment to our mission.

Best wishes,

Buddy



Bob Longmire

UT President Joe DiPietro (right) stands with Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Julius Johnson (center) and Buddy Mitchell, interim chancellor of the UT Institute of Agriculture, as they prepare to cut the ribbon to open the CRC's new Bioenergy Science and Technology Laboratory. Sample feedstocks for biorefineries including switchgrass and woodchips are featured in the background. The comprehensive research facility will accommodate faculty and industry initiatives through the new Center for Renewable Carbon. The BeST laboratory is expected to enhance America's emerging biobased-economy through advances in bioenergy and biofuel production economies as well as the development of new chemicals and materials from renewable carbon (biomass) sources.

Mark your calendar now for the upcoming 40th Anniversary Junior Livestock Expo hosted by UT Extension. The beef events are July 5-8 in Murfreesboro and the Sheep Expo is set for July 11-14 in Cookeville. In the course of the past 40 years, more than 30,000 Tennessee youth have participated, according to organizers Jim Neel, David Kirkpatrick and Clyde Lane of Animal Science. Visit the 4-H Tennessee Junior Livestock Expo 40th Anniversary page on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=136184546404021>.

What's News

- » Henry County Extension Agent **Mary Kate Ridgeway** led the 13th annual Conference for Working Women in Martin. The multifaceted program addressed everything from emotional health to workplace ergonomics and the use of Google as a productivity tool. The WestStar Leadership Program presented the program. Ridgeway is a 2001 WestStar graduate.
- » **A Winter 2011 course on mindfulness-based stress reduction begins March 21.** The program is taught by **Elizabeth Strand**, director of the College of Veterinary Medicine's veterinary social work program.
- » Students in Obion County are embarking on their first-ever **Walk Across Tennessee**, sponsored by the Obion County School System's Coordinated School Health program and UT Extension. The program consists of students from every county school walking during a six-week period. Each grade and each class — including students in elementary, middle and high school — will have its own team at each school. The students will turn in miles weekly, with the teacher to keep a weekly log that will be submitted to Coordinated School Health. Obion Agent Benita Giffin is leading UT's involvement in the effort.

A search is underway for the position of assistant dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Screening of applicants' credentials began February 15 and will continue until the position is filled. A position description is available at <http://www.casnr.utk.edu/newsandevents/CASNRarticles/2010/AsstDeanSearch12-6.html>. For more information, contact **Bob Augé**, search committee chair, at auge@tennessee.edu.

Meeting our Land-Grant Mission with Integrated Programs



Robert Burns

by Robert Burns, Assistant Dean, UT Extension

The teaching, research and Extension components of the Institute of Agriculture each have important roles to play in meeting our land-grant university mission of providing Tennesseans with practical, science-based education that helps them improve their daily lives. **The integration of teaching, research and Extension activities into well-planned, multi-functional programs is a smart strategy to further develop strong programs with meaningful impacts to Tennesseans.**

Recently a team of 19 UT Extension specialists and three TSU Extension specialists attended workshops in Washington, DC, that were organized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The Extension team learned about current NIFA competitive funding opportunities and developed a better understanding of the level of coordination, planning and management needed to develop and deliver high impact outcomes to U.S. agriculture through NIFA funded programs. **A major focus of the workshops was on developing large multi-functional grants. I attended these sessions, and one of the most prominent messages communicated by NIFA program leaders was the requirement that programs must be truly integrated to receive multi-functional NIFA funding.**

It is clear that the newly restructured USDA-NIFA organization will operate in a different manner than the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) did in the past. It is important that we become familiar with the new NIFA structure and goals and work to fully utilize NIFA as a resource to support our mission. **While current NIFA funding opportunities are quite different than USDA funding opportunities of the past, after attending these sessions I am confident that UTIA faculty and their programs can and will be very successful under the new NIFA structure.** I firmly believe this because the NIFA mission of empowering people and communities to solve problems and improve their lives on the local level is in-line with our UTIA mission.

Because UT Extension's mission is to help Tennesseans improve their lives through the application of research-based knowledge, there is an especially strong synergistic relationship between UT's AgResearch and Extension programs. This strong synergy makes it a natural fit to integrate our programs, not only for grant proposals, but also in a majority of the work that we conduct. **Truly integrated research and Extension**

Anik Vasington



Representatives of the College of Veterinary Medicine and the UT Gardens took part in Knoxville's Home and Garden Show in February. Their topic was "Petscapes – Creating a living space, both indoors and outdoors, that is safe, provides enrichment for your pets and is aesthetically pleasing." Mark Windham, "Dr. Dogwood," was on hand at the Bazillion Blooms booth throughout the show answering questions about growing and maintaining dogwood trees and encouraging people to plant more dogwoods.

program planning requires that both research and Extension faculty members are involved in project planning from the very beginning when program outcomes, resource requirements and project outputs are being planned. It is also critical to remember that UT Extension programs are county-based, and that county agents and regional program leaders should also be included in the initial stages of integrated project planning.

There are also numerous opportunities to integrate teaching and 4-H activities into multi-functional programs, as well. As state and federal budgets have declined, interest and expectations from both faculty and administration regarding externally supported grant funding have increased. While the UTIA mission is not to collect grant money, but rather to help our stakeholders improve their lives, we must face the fact that external funding will be required to continue to offer many programs as we have in the past and to support the development of new programs.

In an effort to share what they learned at the NIFA workshops, the Extension team will lead a seminar to discuss integrated program opportunities. The seminar will be held on May 2nd from 1 to 3 p.m. in Plant Biotech Building 160 on the agriculture campus in Knoxville. This seminar is open to anyone interested in attending. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us to discuss how we can work together to develop integrated programs that result in impact that truly helps the farms, families, youth and communities of Tennessee. 🐾



Senior Bull Test Provides Added Value to Producers

The 2010-2011 UT Senior Bull Test and Genetic Evaluation held at the Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center saw the senior class of bulls con-

signed by Tennessee herd sire breeders achieve an all-time high of average selling price of \$3,326 per individual.

The first and second highest selling Angus bulls were consigned by Mathis Angus Farm of Duck River, Tenn., and went for \$6,000 and \$5,000 respectively. Third highest, consigned by Kenneth Kelly of Waynesboro, Tenn., sold for \$4,700 and the fourth highest, consigned by J.D. Lunn Angus of Dickson, Tenn., brought \$4,500.

Very few herd sire sales achieve the \$3,000 benchmark. The success of UT's sale is a testament to the rich information gathered, quality of care and management and the genetic potential of these Tennessee-produced herd sires. **David Kirkpatrick, Extension professor of Animal Science, is coordinator of the program.** Kirkpatrick also organizes a **Junior Bull Test Station** each spring. **This offers another set of superior genetics for commercial beef producers.**



Greg Hirschborn



“Homefront to Heartland” Conference Set for Nashville

The “Homefront to Heartland: Empowering Women in Agriculture and Small Business” conference is set for Friday, April 29, at the Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville. Participants may register online at <http://www.homefronttoheartland.com>.

Women are a growing demographic in agriculture and small business, and they need the tools and resources to be successful and effective in their efforts to make a living. This will be the focus of the special conference, which is **put together by UT Extension and the Tennessee Farm Bureau, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the Tennessee Beef Industry Council.**

Students in the College of Veterinary Medicine invite the community to a free open house at the college from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 16. The ever-popular event showcases the programs, services, people and animals of the college and Veterinary Medical Center. For more information, call 865-974-7377.

Extension's Ray Burden to Provide Leadership in Homeland Security

Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness are crucial issues. UT's leadership in these areas has led to a career change for a seasoned Extension

agent and county director. Ray Burden of Hamilton County has been promoted to research associate professor with **UT Extension and associate director of the**



UT Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness, which resides in the **College of Veterinary Medicine**.

His shift in titles will see him transition from regional responsibilities to state and national leadership.

"Previously my program area of work was focused primarily in East Tennessee with Extension. Now it is statewide, working with the Tennessee Office of Homeland Security, the Tennessee Fusion Center, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Tennessee Department of Agriculture and FBI. I'll also be working

with the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency on the national level."

The joint Extension-CAFSP appointment is unusual and speaks to the emphasis both units are placing on homeland security and disaster preparation and response. In his new capacity, Burden will continue to work with the Extension Disaster Education Network program working to implement a comprehensive emergency response program, and other multi-state projects such as the recipient of a national USDA radiological grant through EDEN.

FCS Program Expands Children's Food Horizons

How many calories are in that fast food meal? Whoa. Would you like some nice kiwi instead?

A UT Extension Family and Consumer Sciences' program in Roane County has received several notable awards for its effective work in promoting nutrition education and better health. "Tasty Tuesday" is part of the **Tennessee Nutrition and Consumer Education Program (TNCEP)**. The program encourages school age children to try fresh fruits and vegetables that they might not ordinarily eat - like kiwi, cranberries and spinach. **UT Extension agents have reached 17,000 children with this message.**



"Tasty Tuesday" was one of nine statewide winners of the "Shining Star" award presented by Governor Phil Bredesen and the Tennessee Council on Physical Fitness and Health in 2010.

The program also received the **Special Exemplary Project Award from the Rural Health Association of Tennessee**. The award was presented at the organization's "Communities Matter" conference in Gatlinburg—where **Roane County TNCEP Program Assistant Penny Poczobut** made a presentation to the entire group about the success of "Tasty Tuesday." —*Chuck Denney*

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